NTEC -MINUTES
February 12th, 2025, at 3:30 PM
Clark College AA4 Room 203

Members Present: Eric Olmsted (Vice-Chair) Owner, On Line Support, INC; Ryan Fanning, IT Specialist, Bonneville Power Administration; Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager, Workforce SW WA; Steve Bohling, Lead Systems Engineer, Clark Public Utilities, Michael Jaeger, Business Development Manager, IRely

Guests:

Members Absent: Brian MacKay, IT Manager, The Columbian Publishing Company; Eric Cowen, Network Operations Manager, Columbia Machine, Inc; Jim Schafer, AMR MFG Network Manager, Intel

Labor Representative: Labor recruitment attempted

Clark College: Dwight Hughes, Department Chair, Clark College; Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Giga Alqeeq, Instructor, Clark College; Josie Sullivan, Program Specialist, Clark College; April Cannon, Academic Advisor, Clark College; Lynne Groom, Director of Annual Giving, Foundation; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College

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The meeting began at 3:30 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE
The committee will meet next on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes from the previous meeting on October 9th, 2024, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES
The College plans to hire additional faculty, including a position for the Cybersecurity program, which has been approved due to its urgent need.
Theo provided updates on the Advanced Manufacturing program, which is awaiting the State's response. If approved, everything will be ready by the fall of 2025.
Dwight will share the Cybersecurity job position with the committee.

ENROLLMENTS

Dwight discussed the program enrollment with Network Technology and Cybersecurity. Cybersecurity is stabilized and is currently running four cohorts. The Network Technology program is currently running two cohorts and normally it is running four. However, by cutting back the program is running full and currently in the position to hire more adjuncts.

Eric inquired how the program would handle an uptick of students in enrollment.

Dwight explained how the program would fulfill the need by adding more cohorts to the program.

Eric offered to extend potential internship opportunities.

CBAS UPDATES

Dwight discussed that Giga anticipates upcoming news regarding his tenure acceptance. Additionally, Giga will be running the Cybersecurity program starting in the summer of 2025.

Giga reported improvements in the Cybersecurity program, noting that retention rates increased from 40% to 85-90%.

Giga discussed goals for continual improvement with the Cybersecurity program. The program is working towards achieving recognition from the National Center of Excellence in Cyber Defense, which will help it stand out among other colleges due to its certification for educational monitoring.

Giga discussed forming the Cybersecurity advisory board and welcomed committee members to participate. Additionally, the program is forming a cybersecurity club.

Eric recommended a frequency of three meetings with the advisory board for cybersecurity. Or potentially merging the Cybersecurity and Network technology advisory committees once a year.

Ryan is in favor of the frequency of meetings and merging the committees.

Giga would like to collaborate with local community colleges and businesses for engagements and build relationships.

Eric discussed the potential for paid internships. Eric shared alumni success stories.

Sean noted the importance of sharing success stories. Lynne is in favor of this as the Foundation will happily share alumni success stories.

STUDENT TRACKING

Dwight welcomed suggestions from the committee and encouraged sharing ideas for best practices in tracking students after graduation moving forward.

Ryan recommended that students be placed into an alumni category.

Sean recommended automating this process would be beneficial.

April suggested that the program should reach out to students who have completed the final Cybersecurity and Network Technology class and ask them for permission to be contacted by the College after six months. The program could utilize Google Forms or Microsoft Forms to initiate this tracking process.

Eric recommended infra-guard partnerships also known on green level briefings, as it might be a good contact for Dwight and Giga to connect with.

Dwight noted that a linked group may be a good option.

April discussed a new student tracking system called Water Mark the program could use for outreach. The College anticipates the launch of the new system during the fall of 2025 or the winter of 2025.

Steve asked if there is a moderated email list for tracking students such as Mailman so the program can send emails on that distribution list after graduation.

AI

Dwight discussed the impact of tier-one support roles and network support. He welcomed input regarding what the program should focus on teaching students.

Eric recommended AI courses and security within AI.

Ryan suggested that when the Computer Science and Engineering program is accepting their first cohort, potentially merging a course for Network Technology students in AI that is offered in both programs.

Dwight discussed a course called AI Tools, network analysis, and monitoring. By leaving it generic the program can pivot as industry changes evolve. Additionally, the program can look more at the theory in large language models.

Giga recommended collaborating with Computer Science and Engineering.

Theo is in favor of adding AI to the curriculum and courses surrounding ethics.

Steve noted offering AI courses within Computer Science and Engineering but allowing Network Technology students to take some of the offerings seems to be a better fit.

Sean recommended having a general AI class so other departments can take it.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores